

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions of these claims in the present Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a computer readable storage medium comprising program instructions executable to implement a virtual device tape interface, wherein  
said virtual device tape interface is configured to allow a primary storage device to be accessed using at least one operation that is substantially the same as that used to control a tape backup secondary storage device, wherein the primary storage device is accessed using said at least one operation in response to a call received from a utility by said virtual device interface,  
said virtual device tape interface is coupled to control said primary storage device and said tape backup secondary storage device,  
said virtual tape interface comprises a virtual loader library,  
said virtual loader library is configured to create a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on said primary storage device,  
said virtual loader library is configured to create a file, within said directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within said virtual loader,  
said virtual tape interface is configured to store data written to the virtual tape in the file,  
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media, and  
said tape backup secondary storage device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said virtual ~~device~~ tape interface is further configured to allow the utility to access said primary storage device as said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising said primary storage device.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, further comprising: said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface comprises:  
~~a virtual loader library, communicatively coupled to said primary storage device;~~  
~~and~~  
a virtual loader utilities module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library.
8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual tape interface further comprises:  
a main module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library; and  
a configuration file, accessible by said main module, wherein said configuration file comprises information that allows said virtual loader library to create ~~[[a]]~~ the virtual loader on said primary storage device.
9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual loader library is configured to allow the utility to access said primary storage device as said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
creating a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage device;  
creating a file, within the directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be  
loaded within the virtual loader;  
receiving a first command at a virtual ~~device~~ tape interface, wherein the first  
command is received from a utility;  
converting the first command to a second command using the virtual ~~device~~ tape  
interface, wherein  
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,  
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage  
device,  
a tape backup device is said first type of storage device is a ~~secondary~~  
storage device,  
said primary storage device is the second type of storage device ~~is a~~  
~~primary storage device,~~  
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and  
is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-  
removable storage media, and  
said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device comprises removable storage  
media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the  
removable storage media;  
storing data written to the virtual tape in the file; and  
accessing said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device using the virtual ~~device~~ tape  
interface.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein  
~~said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and~~  
said primary storage device is a hard drive.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[12]] 10, wherein said tape backup secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual ~~device~~ tape interface.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:  
a processor;  
computer readable medium coupled to said processor; and  
computer code, encoded in said computer readable medium, configured to cause  
said processor to:  
create a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage  
device;  
create a file, within the directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can  
be loaded within the virtual loader;  
receive a first command at a virtual ~~device~~ tape interface, wherein the first  
command is received from a utility;  
convert the first command to a second command using the virtual ~~device~~  
tape interface, wherein  
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage  
device,  
said second command is configured to control a second type of  
storage device,  
a tape backup device is said first type of storage device is a  
secondary storage device,  
said primary storage device is the second type of storage device is  
a primary storage device,  
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage  
media and is configured to provide access to data stored on  
the non-removable storage media, and

said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media;  
store data written to the virtual tape in the file; and  
access said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device using the virtual ~~device~~ tape interface.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 16, wherein  
~~said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and~~  
said primary storage device is a hard drive.
18. (Canceled) .
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein  
said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual ~~device~~ tape interface.
22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:  
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to convert  
a first command to a second command, wherein  
said first command is received by a virtual ~~device~~ tape interface from a  
utility,  
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,  
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage  
device,  
a tape backup device is said first type of storage device ~~is a secondary~~  
~~storage device,~~

said primary storage device is the second type of storage device is a primary storage device,  
 said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media,  
 said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media, and  
 said virtual ~~device~~ tape interface comprises said first set of instructions and is coupled to control said primary storage device and said tape backup device;  
said virtual tape interface comprises a virtual loader library,  
said virtual loader library is configured to create a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on said primary storage device,  
said virtual loader library is configured to create a file, within said directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within said virtual loader,  
said virtual tape interface is configured to store data written to the virtual tape in the file,  
 a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to access said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device using said virtual ~~device~~ tape interface; and

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein

~~said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and~~  
 said primary storage device is a hard drive.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for creating a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage device;

means for creating a file, within the directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within the virtual loader;

means for converting a first command to a second command, wherein

said first command is received by a virtual ~~device~~ tape interface from a utility,

said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,

said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,

a tape backup device is said first type of storage device ~~is a secondary storage device,~~

said primary storage device is the second type of storage device ~~is a primary storage device,~~

said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and a means to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media,

said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device comprises removable storage media and a means to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media,

said virtual device interface stores data written to the virtual tape in the file; and

said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting; and

means for accessing said tape backup ~~secondary storage~~ device using the virtual ~~device~~ tape interface.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein

~~said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and~~  
said primary storage device is a hard drive.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[30]] 28, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

34. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

35. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

36. (New) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

38. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.